

Remarks

The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is urged in view of the amendments above and comments which follow.

In response to the quite correct objection to claims 17 and 18, the dependencies of those claims have been corrected. The omission previously is regretted.

Regarding the rejection of claims 12, 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as set forth in section 3 on page 2 of the final Office Action, it is believed that the amendments above have corrected the matters raised by the Examiner, and the claims now meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

In section 5 beginning on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 12, 13 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kimura U.S. Patent No. 5,167,926. In numbered section 7 on page 5 of the Office Action, claim 6 was further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Sheeran U.S. Patent No. 4,832,678. While the indicated allowability of claims 6 and 7 is most gratefully acknowledged, reconsideration of the rejections is urged as it is submitted that the claims are now all in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended by specifying that neither the latter sample containers nor their contents can receive radiant heat directly from the heat source during centrifuging of the samples in the sample holder.

Claim 12 has been amended by specifying that the method includes the step of centrifuging the samples in the sample holder and at the same time supplying energy to heat the sample holder and in turn the samples.

Claim 13 has been amended by specifying that the method includes the step that at the same as the samples are centrifuged in the sample holder, the temperature of the latter is monitored and the heat energy is reduced or cut off if the temperature of the holder rises above a predetermined value.

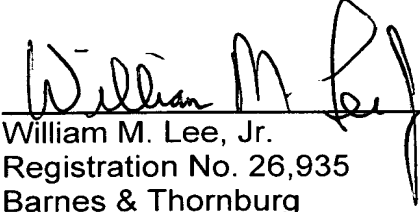
Claim 16 has been amended by specifying that the centrifugal evaporator comprises a vacuum chamber and drive means coupled to the vacuum chamber, the vacuum chamber containing heating means and a sample holder according to claim 1.

It is submitted that with the amendments above, which incorporate features not shown or suggested by Kimura, the claims, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration in that regard is therefore urged.

As this response is being sent during the fourth month following the Examiner's Office Action, an appropriate Petition for Extension of Time is also submitted herewith.

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Respectfully submitted,


William M. Lee, Jr.
Registration No. 26,935
Barnes & Thornburg
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
(312) 214-4800
(312) 759-5646 (fax)